

[Signature]



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07057.0058

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Nobuo YODOSHI) Group Art Unit: 1746
Application No.: 10/724,747) Examiner: Not Assigned
Filed: December 2, 2003)
For: MEMBRANE-ELECTRODE)
ASSEMBLY AND PRODUCTION)
METHOD THEREOF)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. To the best of undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits for this application. Further, each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents.

On information and belief, German Patent Publication No. DE 199 10 773 discloses a production method of a MEA, wherein an ink comprising a solvent-dispersed, carrier-supported catalyst (e.g. PT on carbon black having a large surface area) is prepared. This ink is then printed on the top and back sides of a polymer electrolyte membrane. It is further disclosed that coarser catalyst particles ("catalyst clumps") are generally undesirable, as their application might cause perforation of the adjacent electrolyte membrane. Depending on the printing process used for applying said ink, the consistency of the ink has to be adjusted accordingly.

On information and belief, German Patent Publications Nos. DE 198 12 592 and DE 100 37 072 disclose an MEA comprising a polymer electrolyte membrane coated on both sides with reaction layers. These layers are applied as an ink comprising a carrier catalyst and a solvent. The carrier catalyst is selected from catalytically active metals or metal alloys supported on carbon with high surface area. As the carbon support, carbon black is disclosed, especially Vulcan XC 72[®], graphite and active carbon. As alloying additions, vanadium, iron and nickel are disclosed, along with ruthenium, cobalt, chromium, wolfram, molybdenum and copper, the stated metals being used alone or in combination.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

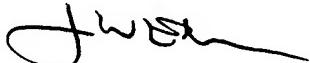
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 22, 2005

By: 
James W. Edmondson
Reg. No. 33,871

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/724,747
				Filing Date	December 2, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Nobuo YODOSHI
				Art Unit	1746
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	07057.0058

O I P E J C I A
JUN 22 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		DE 199 10 773 A1	03/11/99			No
		DE 198 12 592	03/23/98			No
		DE 100 37 072	07/29/00			No

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		German Office Action dated March 29, 2005	Yes

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.